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Flynn pleads guilty to lying

Cooperating with Mueller probe, inquiry draws closer to Trump's inner circle

**Brad Heath, Gregory Korte
and Kevin Johnson**
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn brought the investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election to President Donald Trump's inner circle Friday, promising to give prosecutors information about other senior aides as he pleaded guilty to a charge of lying to the FBI.

Flynn's abrupt guilty plea is the dramatic culmination of an investigation Trump had once asked the FBI to drop. His cooperation means a top adviser in

the campaign and the early days of Trump's presidency is now providing evidence in an investigation that has cast a shadow over the president's first year in office. And it suggests the investigation remains far from over.

Flynn is the fourth former Trump aide to face criminal charges in special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election but the first to be prosecuted for things that happened during the Trump administration.

In court Friday, prosecutors offered their first hint of the information Flynn

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Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn leaves federal court in Washington, D.C., after pleading guilty to making false statements to the FBI.

SUSAN WALSH/AP

Did Wisconsin tree growers save Christmas this year?



Debbie Kraehnke and her granddaughter, Kenzie Stark, 4, both of Fort Atkinson, cut a spruce tree for Christmas at Riehle's Tree Farm in Dousman. Riehle's has been selling Christmas trees for 50 years.

MICHAEL SEARS / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Growers sending trees all over after recession led to shortage

Joe Taschler

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Is this the year Wisconsin tree growers saved Christmas?

That might be stretching things a bit.

Still, amid a tight supply — some say it's a shortage — of fresh cut Christmas trees in parts of the United States, growers in Wisconsin say they have been fielding dozens of calls and filling more orders than usual from folks who are seeking trees for the

holiday season.

The situation is a remnant of the Great Recession, which drove an untold number of U.S. Christmas tree growers from the business. Fewer growers has meant fewer trees.

Since a Christmas tree takes about a decade to reach a height of 7 to 8 feet — the size that families most prefer — growers now don't have as many to cut and ship around the country as they have had in past years, according to the National Christmas Tree Association, a Washington, D.C.-based trade group.

The result is in some parts of the U.S., it may be harder to find a Christmas tree this year. And that

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Senate moves toward passage of tax cuts

Nonpartisan committee says bill will add \$1 trillion to deficit

Herb Jackson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans moved Friday evening toward passage of a historic overhaul of individual and corporate taxes after sweetening the bill with tax cuts for some businesses and promising future action on immigration and health care to attract reluctant senators.

"We have the votes," Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said after a late-morning conference where the latest changes were discussed behind closed doors. The Kentucky Republican said the final vote could come Friday night.

Key details about how the bill would change were still being ironed out late Friday, but two changes that had been under consideration — a minimum tax on wealthy people and corporations to raise \$350 billion to reduce deficits, and a top corporate rate of 22 percent instead of the proposed 20 percent — had been rejected.

"By and large, it keeps the same framework and integrity of what our priorities were," said Marc Short, Presi-

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Foxconn will have assembly plant operating by 2019

Lee Bergquist

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MOUNT PLEASANT — Foxconn Technology Group's site plan for its manufacturing complex shows that the company plans to construct an assembly plant on its sprawling campus that will

start operating by January 2019.

The schematic site plan, which was made public Friday, identifies more than a dozen buildings that will be built in two phases, including offices, a cafeteria and parking ramps on land east of I-94 near the border of Racine and Kenosha counties.

Manufacturing-related buildings are

labeled in some cases with descriptions such as "glass," "chemical-gas" and "water." Foxconn uses vast amounts of water, chemicals and glass to construct liquid crystal display panels as a contract manufacturer.

The first manufacturing building would be at least 1 million square feet and built along Highway H, on the east-

ern portion of the property. Foxconn has told local officials it plans to begin assembly operations in the building a little more than a year from now, said Claude Lois, project director for Mount Pleasant.

Foxconn is currently leasing space for

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Alpine Valley

East Troy music theater will be back in business in 2018. **3A**

Badgers

Barry Alvarez says hiring Paul Chryst "saved our program." **Sports, 1B**

Weather

High 53° Low 37°
Partly cloudy. **4C**

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